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Serial No. 10/500,448

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 15 and 17-19 and ADD new claims 26-32 in accordance with the following:

15. (Currently Amended) A method for preserving food, comprising:

bringing food into contact with sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite for storage, preparing the Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite in which having a part of calcium in calcium hydroxyapatite is substituted with titanium, [[:]] sintering the Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite being sintered at 580 to 660°C for enhancing photocatalytic activity of the Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite; and

~~bringing food into contact with the sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite for storage,~~

wherein the food being~~s~~ brought into contact with the sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite by placing the food in a container having an inner surface coated with the sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite or in a container made of a material containing the sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method for preserving food, comprising:

bringing food into contact with sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite for storage, preparing the Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite in which having a part of calcium in calcium hydroxyapatite is substituted with titanium, [[:]] sintering the Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite being sintered at 580 to 660°C for enhancing photocatalytic activity of the Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite; and

~~bringing food into contact with the sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite for storage,~~

wherein said bringing the food is brought into contact with the sintered Ti-modified

Serial No. 10/500,448

calcium hydroxyapatite includes at least one of by wrapping the food in a food wrapping film having a surface coated with the sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite and wrapping the feeder in a food wrapping film made of a material containing the sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for preserving food, comprising:

bringing food into contact with sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite for storage, preparing the Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite in which having a part of calcium in calcium hydroxyapatite is substituted with titanium, [();] sintering the Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite being sintered at 580 to 660°C for enhancing photocatalytic activity of the Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite; and

bringing food into contact with the sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite for storage,

wherein said bringing the food is brought into contact with the sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite includes at least one of by applying the sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite to a surface of the food and/or by adding the sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite to the food.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for preserving food, comprising:

bringing food into contact with sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite for storage, preparing the Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite in which having a part of calcium in calcium hydroxyapatite is substituted with titanium, [();] sintering the Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite being sintered at 580 to 660°C for enhancing photocatalytic activity of the Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite; and

bringing food into contact with the sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite for storage,

wherein said bringing the food is brought into contact with the sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite includes by bringing the food into contact with tableware having a surface coated with the sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite.

20-25. (Cancelled).

26. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the inner surface of the container is coated with a sol-gel solution containing a silica alkoxide and a powder of the

Serial No. 10/500,448

sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite.

27. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the surface of the food wrapping film is coated with a sol-gel solution containing a silica alkoxide and a powder of the sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite.

28. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the surface of the tableware is coated with a sol-gel solution containing a silica alkoxide and a powder of the sintered Ti-modified calcium hydroxyapatite.

29. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the storage of the food is performed without ultraviolet irradiation.

30. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the storage of the food is performed without ultraviolet irradiation.

31. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the storage of the food is performed without ultraviolet irradiation.

32. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the storage of the food is performed without ultraviolet irradiation.